In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 3 shows a functional construction of each of the end system 10 and relay apparatus 14-11 extracted from Fig. 1. The end system 10 comprises an application unit or application 18 and a connection establishment requesting unit 20. The application 18 is constructed by application software for executing communication (business) with the end system of the partner destination and exists in an application layer in Fig. 2. The connection establishment requesting unit 20 is arranged in the TCP layer in Fig. 2. When a communicating request to an arbitrary partner destination end system is received from the application 18, the connection establishment requesting unit 20 transmits a connection establishment request packet for establishing a TCP connection, specifically speaking, an SYN packet to, for example, the relay apparatus 14-11 serving as a relay destination through the transmission path 16 in accordance with a routing protocol of TCP/IP. The connection establishment request packet transmitted from the end system 10 to the relay apparatus side as mentioned above establishes a connection by a relay transfer of the connection establishment request packet to the end system 12 via the relay apparatuses 14-11, 14-12, 14-13, and 14-1n, for example, in Fig. 1. When a connection establishment response is derived from the end system 12, data communication from the application 18 is started.--

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